



**Joseph C. Cavender**  
Vice President & Assistant General Counsel  
Federal Affairs  
1220 L Street NW Suite #660  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: (571) 730-6533  
joseph.cavender@level3.com

October 24, 2017

**Ex Parte**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, WC Docket No. 16-403

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 20, 2017, I spoke with Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn regarding the proposed merger between CenturyLink, Inc. and Level 3 Communications, Inc. I explained that the companies were poised and eager to complete the merger promptly after obtaining Commission authorization, and that delays impose costs on the companies, including those associated with the financing of the transaction. I further observed that the "shot clock" for the companies to divest certain assets pursuant to the consent decree agreed to by the companies in connection with the Department of Justice's approval of the merger already had begun, and that delay in obtaining Commission approval would make it more challenging for the companies to do the work necessary to effectuate the required divestitures of those assets.

On October 23, 2017, I spoke with Travis Litman, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel, regarding the same matter. I reiterated the companies' desire to close the transaction promptly.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph C. Cavender  
Joseph C. Cavender

Marlene H. Dortch

October 24, 2017

Page 2

cc: Claude Aiken  
Travis Litman  
Thomas Jones (Counsel to Level 3)  
Mia Hayes (Counsel to Level 3)  
Yaron Dori (Counsel to CenturyLink)